

Rogene McKiernan and Don Crosby have been representing the Boomers in meetings with City Staff to address design concerns and try and develop an MOU for the new Senior area that is being added to the Community Center. We think it is much better to meet in person than to conduct business via e-mail, but busy schedules often times keep meetings from happening in a timely manner on important issues.

This document is in response to the e-mail dated March 31, 2015 that we received from Dan Ampietro. We are placing a copy of Dan's e-mail and this response in the Council packets because it is only fair to the Council to be informed of our concerns before we appear on Council agenda on April 21st, and hopefully on April 28th for Council action.

At the meeting held on February 6, 2015 with Rogene, Don, Dan, Ken and Stu we discussed final building plans, which we expected to review one more time before the bid package was prepared. Dan's e-mail included plans and specs, but they had been finalized without our input. More importantly, we discussed the need to have an MOU in place BEFORE any construction was started. When we left that meeting Stu had a couple of pages of notes and he indicated he would meet with staff and work on some of the issues that he felt could be resolved, and we would hear from staff. We waited and did not hear. Don checked with Stu and he explained that Ken had been out of town, but as soon as he was back they would get together. Dan, the ball was definitely NOT in our court!!!!

We received a "revised version" with Dan's note that the City was holding firm on their position. The Boomers are in an awkward spot. We discussed the fact that it was not good business to give anyone a check before we had an agreement, but because we felt that we could trust the City of Gunnison, and we were told you needed the funding to secure the grants, and because we thought you had respect for the time and energy it took to raise the funds we went ahead and turned over the money without an agreement. It appears that was a mistake on our part.

There are still major issues to be resolved, and we feel that they must be resolved in the immediate future:

1. On the plans it shows that there is an optional bid item for a key card access on the south end of the building. Why isn't that access directly into the Boomer's area? Why does someone who might have trouble walking, or use a walker, have to come in through the big south door, through the Young at Heart area where there might be a meeting going on, and then into the Senior area? We request that you fund the card lock system and have it open directly into the Boomer's area.
2. The issue of the cost of membership at the Community Center is a huge issue. As we understand the plan Young at Heart will not have to pay a membership fee because they are "grandfathered" in. That is somewhat difficult to determine who belongs when they do not have an active membership roll. We do not believe that when the County provided funding for the Community Center it was solely for Young at Heart, they were simply the only Senior organization in place at that time. On the other hand Boomers who want to use the area and raised money for it will have to pay a full Senior (70 and older) membership fee. In addition, if

our summer guests come to eat at Young at Heart and then want to participate in a Boomer's activity in the new area they will be expected to pay a full membership or a walk-in fee except between the hours of 6:00 AM – 1:00 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We have been told that there is not enough staff to provide any administrative services for the Boomers. If administrative help is not available who is going to be responsible for making sure that everyone pays per this plan if use fees are indeed required? We need a sliding scale that is fair to everyone and that charges according to the services the person uses, just like is available for youth activities.

What is left for Seniors if Young at Heart is no longer a viable organization and you have squeezed the life out of the Boomers? The Senior population in Gunnison is large and continues to grow. Seniors support many of the activities in our community and are an important source of volunteers for local non-profits. Active, engaged Seniors are an important component of a successful healthy community. We want to make certain that this important group in our community has a place to call their own.

Submitted by,

Rogene McKiernan, Betsy Janney and Don Crosby
Boomers and Beyond MOU Committee